

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
46<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT COURT

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**DISTRICT JUDGES**

The Honorable  
STEPHEN C. COOPER  
248-796-5830

The Honorable  
SHELLA R. JOHNSON  
248-796-5810

The Honorable  
SUSAN M. MOISEEV  
248-796-5820

June 14, 2005

House Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: House Bill 4796 – Preliminary Examinations

Dear Judiciary Committee Members:

There is a simple administrative solution to minimizing the unnecessary appearance of police officers and other witnesses at preliminary examinations that the 46<sup>th</sup> District Court in Southfield has been using successfully for over 20 years.

Courts may schedule a pre-exam conference at which only the prosecutor, defense attorney and defendant need to appear. At the pre-exam conference, approximately 75% of felony cases either waive the exam, plea to a misdemeanor or fail to appear and a bench warrant is issued. The remaining 25% of the cases are set for exam. Of those, only one-third generally require a police officer to be present as a witness. If a police officer is required as a witness, the prosecutor may have the police officer on standby.

This procedure minimizes the unnecessary appearance of police officers and other witnesses and allows courts to schedule more effectively and balance their workload.

At the arraignment, a pre-exam conference and a preliminary exam date are scheduled. The pre-exam conference is scheduled 4-6 days after arraignment. At the pre-exam conference, parties can change the exam date based on scheduling conflicts.

While few courts are currently using this option, a pre-exam conference is easy to schedule and is a more efficient use of limited public resources.

Very truly yours,

Donna Beaudet  
Court Administrator

ADMINISTRATOR  
DONNA BEAUDET  
248-796-5800

CIVIL DIVISION  
248-796-5870

CIVIL INFRACTION/  
PARKING DIVISION  
248-796-5860

MISDEMEANOR/  
FELONY DIVISION  
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PROBATION  
DEPARTMENT  
248-796-5850

TDD  
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